



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 1655  
Examiner: Jeanine Enewold Goldberg

In Re Application of:  
Inventor(s) : Ellen M. Heath *et al.*  
  
Serial No. : 09/241,636  
  
Filed : February 2, 1999  
  
For : PROCESSES FOR ISOLATING, AMPLIFYING AND  
CHARACTERIZING DNA  
  
Attorney Docket No. : 5253 (Also GSIM-P01-006)

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RESPONSE**

This is a response to the outstanding final office action, dated September 9, 2003. A petition for a three month extension of time, up to and including March 9, 2004 accompanies this response. Claims 1-10, and 12-62 remain pending in the application.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Amended)** A process for characterizing DNA comprising a step of isolating nucleic acids, wherein the step of isolating comprises the steps of:
  - (a) contacting a biological material that contains DNA with a solid support treated with a lysing reagent wherein the solid support has not contacted the biological material at the time of treatment;
  - (b) treating the biological material that contains DNA with a DNA purifying reagent;